

15.(Amended) A composite shim having a laminate structure comprising a central axis and a first composite layer including at least one [a] fiber that [is substantially concentrically oriented] surrounds the central axis and is located in a single plane.

18.(Amended) A composite shim according to Claim 15, wherein the first composite layer comprises a plurality of fibers that are [substantially] concentrically oriented.

19.(Amended) A composite shim according to Claim 18, wherein the plurality of fibers that are [substantially] concentrically oriented are arcuate shaped fibers.

20.(Amended) A composite shim according to Claim 19, wherein the plurality of arcuate shaped fibers form a plurality of circles oriented as [substantially] concentric rings.

21.(Amended) A laminated bearing structure comprising:
a plurality of resilient layers; and
a plurality of shims alternating with and laminated to the plurality of resilient layers, wherein at least one of the shims is a composite shim having a central axis and a laminate structure comprising a first composite layer including at least one circumferential fiber in a plane that is substantially perpendicular to said central axis.

30.(Amended) A composite shim having a laminate structure comprising a central axis and a first composite layer including at least one fiber that surrounds [a section] the central axis of the first composite layer circumferentially in a direction that is perpendicular to said central axis.

43. (Amended) A composite shim according to Claim 42 wherein the shim has [an axis, the at least one] a plurality of fibers surrounding the central axis.

44. (Amended) A composite shim according to Claim 43 wherein the central axis

is a longitudinal axis, the composite shim further comprising[es] at least one longitudinal fiber and the at least one longitudinal fiber being oriented in the direction defined by the longitudinal axis.

45. **(Amended)**A composite shim according to Claim 4[4]2 wherein the shim further comprises at least one [longitudinal] fiber that extends [diametrically] circumferentially.

46. **(Amended)**A composite shim according to Claim 44 wherein the shim further comprises at least one longitudinal fiber and at least one lateral fiber that extend[s] around the [outside of the] outer periphery of the shim.